The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

of

The National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

The National Geographic Society is a non-profit educational and scientific Society established for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

VOLUME XXX March 17, 1952 NUMBER 23

1. Latin America a Varied Geographic Package
2. Florida's Wild Everglades Due for Taming
3. Spring Stirs Korea, "Land of Morning Calm"
4. Weather Prophets Forecast 30 Days Ahead
5. Fiji Islands Once Offered to U. S. as a Gift

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 1) MAXWELL JAY RICE

THESE BOYS OF DIFFERING TYPES HAVE TWO THINGS IN COMMON: ALL ARE BRAZILIANS; ALL ARE FASCINATED BY A SEAPLANE

The iron bird landed on the Amazon River at Fonte Bôa, a small settlement upstream from Manaus. The shirtless lad and his straw-hatted friend represent the native Indian tribes of the Amazon basin. The others may be of Spanish, Portuguese, or Italian descent—sons of comparative newcomers.

Bulletin No. 1, March 17, 1952

Latin America a Varied Geographic Package

"LATIN America," a handy label for lands south of the Rio Grande, is not, on close view, as neat a package as its name signifies. It covers more than 8,000,000 square miles including Mexico and the narrow six-nation streamer of Central America. It takes in Panama, the intercontinental bridge between North and South America and, with the Panama Canal, the link between the oceans.

Southward, toward the continent of Antarctica, Latin America means also South America, with a patchwork of ten different countries. There, patterns vary from the slim ribbon of Chile (illustration, next page) on the Pacific, to broad Brazil (illustration, cover), reaching inland from the Atlantic over an area bigger than that of continental United States.

Geography Turned Theatrical

In addition Latin America includes the three island republics of the Caribbean—Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. The last two share the world's only island where two independent nations live together.

Latin American scenery is as spectacular as a theatrical production. It boasts the world's longest continuous mountain barrier, the Andes; its tallest active volcano, Cotopaxi; its highest big lake, Titicaca; the most extensive river system, the Amazon; and the world's highest waterfall, Angel Falls.

Latin American terrain varies widely. Hot sunrays parch northern Mexico's deserts. Tropical downpours drench the rain forests of Brazil and Panama's steamy jungles. Chill winds sweep the barren plateaus of Bolivia, while cattle roam the more fertile plains of Argentina and Uruguay.

In Ecuador, an avenue of giant fire-breathing volcanoes reaches skyward under icy glaciers. Its mountainous neighbor, Peru, contains rainless coastal stretches made fertile by irrigation and guano.

Forest-covered Paraguay (illustration, inside cover) lies almost in the center of South America, facing Brazil to the north and Argentina to the south. This inland country provides its neighbors with *yerba maté*, a favorite tea, and excellent timber.

Mixture of Cultures

From an airplane, three startlingly different types of land appear within the length of Chile, 24 times as long as it is wide. Arid nitrate fields in the north terminate with the lush midlands which themselves give way to the bleak, gale-swept far-south.

Latin America also possesses many different cultures and ways of life. Aboriginal Indians left many customs. Spanish and Portuguese settlements gave the two most widely spoken languages and the main religion. Negro slaves brought African jungle rhythms to Latin American music. Italian and German immigrants have added their cultures to the others.

Spanish is the common language in the major portion of Latin America.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER APRIL 27, 1943, POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.
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(SEE BULLETIN NO. 1) FENNO JACOBS FROM THREE LIONS

BLOOMING TREES ADD BEAUTY TO THE LARGEST CHURCH IN ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY'S CAPITAL

Red bougainvillea, blue jacaranda, and yellow plumaria decorate this tiled-roof home in the shadow of La Encarnación, one of the city's most prominent buildings. These colorful trees and flowers thrive in Asunción's subtropical climate. Summer clothes are the vogue and small boys disdain shoes.

Bulletin No. 2, March 17, 1952

Florida's Wild Everglades Due for Taming

TROPICS in the United States? No; but the nearest thing to it is the Florida Everglades (map, next page) where man's practical hand now is altering the natural abandon of the subtropical wilderness.

Work on a $200,000,000 master plan to tame the 'Glades—a plan which will affect an area larger than Connecticut, Delaware, and New Jersey combined—was started in 1950 by the United States Army Engineers. Cooperating with local land owners, they expect to drain swamps, establish flood controls, and make available for farming and cattle raising extensive reaches of grasslands.

Southern Part Now National Park

For well over a century, Floridians have been stirred to action by plans to reclaim part or all of the Everglades—a luxuriant jungle of pines, cypress and mangrove swamps, winding creeks, and marshy meadows where grass grows higher than a tall man's head.

This loosely defined tract of some four and a half million acres extends around and south of Lake Okeechobee to the sea. It takes in the southern tip of Florida, and it is in this region that the Everglades National Park was opened to the public in December, 1947.

Although dominated by nearly flat and usually flooded grass marshes, much of the soil of the Everglades—black, organic muck capable of producing a crop in 60 days—is among the richest in the world.

To get at this soil, a vast program of drainage was begun in 1907. Dredges gashed 16 canals across the flat marshes to the ocean. Landowners constructed a great network of ditches to carry water off their lands to canals. In the first half of the 20th century, more than $50,000,000 was spent on drainage alone.

Existence of Everglades Threatened

As man moved in and drained more than was good for the land, the delicate balance of nature's forces was upset. In times of drought the muck and peat lands, robbed of their natural moisture, shrank. The dry peat is inflammable and when it caught fire thousands of acres of rich material went up in smoke.

As the fresh water drained into the ocean, there was nothing to keep the salt sea water from seeping into the porous rock beneath the land surface. The great loss of soil, water, vegetation, and wildlife recently gave rise to the prediction that there would be no Everglades in another 50 years if the trend was not halted.

In the battle with nature the casualties were counted among the great and small. The rare Everglades kite, for example, is a bird that cannot exist without Pomacea snails, and without dampness, the fresh-water snails perish. When fire comes to parched, highly inflammable areas, all wild creatures must flee for their lives.

Today in Everglades National Park a part of this exotic wilderness is being preserved in its natural state. There hundreds of snowy egrets,

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There are various Negro dialects and scores of Indian tongues. Some are so local they cannot be understood in communities beyond the next mountain range.

Over the centuries, Latin America has been seen through a curtain of golden legend. Once, Spanish and Portuguese adventurers looked to its precious metals as an inexhaustible treasure chest. Later, South America was regarded simply as a source of raw materials and a market for finished products from abroad.

Today Latin America is building industries and extending its trade. Venezuelan oil and newly found iron, Brazilian coffee, Cuban sugar, Bolivian tin, and Chilean copper are among the most familiar commodities. The UN estimates that 158,000,000 people live in Latin America.

NOTE: The countries included in "Latin America" may be located on the National Geographic Society's maps of South America, and the Countries of the Caribbean. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For further information, refer to articles under the names of the individual countries in the *Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine. (Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at 60¢ a copy, 1946 to date; $1.00, 1930-1945; and $2.00, 1912-1929. Earlier issues, when still in print, at varied prices.)*

FENNO JACOBS FROM THREE LIONS

A LANDMARK IN OSORNO, TRAVEL PARADISE OF CHILE, IS THIS MODERN GERMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

German-Chilean architects created the bizarre designs on this modern building. It contrasts sharply with the adjacent house roofed with corrugated iron. These men still use horses for transportation. Osorno is known as the travel center of the beautiful lake district in southern Chile.

Bulletin No. 3, March 17, 1952

Spring Stirs Korea, "Land of Morning Calm"

NOW that spring is arriving in Korea, the war-tossed residents are stirring restlessly. Warm winds breaking through always bring hope to the hearts of men—and Koreans this year are no exception.

Winter is cold in the "Land of Morning Calm." Siberian winds lash the mountainous north where the mercury stays below freezing nearly half the year. In southern Korea, winters are milder, but without fuel even the South Koreans are uncomfortable in their war-torn country.

South Korean Harvests Two Rice Crops

Spring comes to Korea almost without warning, about the middle of March. One week, snow covers the hillsides. A week later, sunshine and gentle winds bring leaves to trees and wildflowers to the fields. Masses of yellow forsythia come first, to give way to snow-white cherry blossoms. Azaleas, buttercups, and violets paint hillsides vivid colors.

With spring well advanced, bullocks begin to drag plows through the adhesive mud of rice paddies in the south. If spring comes early and the southern planter is lucky, he harvests two rice crops a year. Impatiently his northern brother must wait a little longer for his frozen ground to thaw. Then he plows drier land for potatoes, barley, and oats.

Because of the war, many farmers are homeless refugees in the southern part of the country. To them, spring brings a forlorn hope that they may return to their tiny farms—many in the communist north—to start again. Korean farmers love their land. Some have braved machine-gun fire to tend their fields. Others followed tank invasions through their rice paddies to repair the damage.

There are perhaps 4,000,000 refugees crowded into miserable tent cities just south of the fighting area. Probably half a million came from North Korea. At least 100,000 are homeless children whose parents are lost or dead.

Moved from War Zone

The South Korean government and the United Nations have tried to help these victims of war. They have set up refugee camps throughout the southern part of the peninsula and on the numerous islands off the coast. They have moved as many persons as possible from crowded and dangerous centers near the war zone. Other refugees have found homes with relatives who still had habitable houses.

The refugees both in private homes and in camps have received many blankets and clothes. Relief agencies try to see to it that each person receives his daily bowl of rice.

Many of these displaced persons help with the rehabilitation work. They rebuild the roads and railroads damaged by war action. They construct shelters and restore industrial plants. These include silk mills, cotton-textile factories, and cement works. Before the outbreak of the fighting in June, 1950, these industries had been fairly well established. The silk mills had been turning out more than half a million square yards a month, and in one pre-war year more than 33,000,000 yards of cotton

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white ibis, blue herons, and Louisiana herons brighten the jungle with gay-hued plumage. The park is a refuge for ducks, wood ibis, white pelicans, black-crowned night herons, and a great variety of other birds.

For most of the Everglades not included in the national park, the United States Army Engineers' plan for water control will go into operation. Under this plan the Everglades may be put to use for the good of man, but the ways of nature must be taken into consideration when any radical changes are made.

NOTE: The Everglades may be located on the Society's map of the Southeastern United States.

For additional information, see "Wildlife of Everglades National Park," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1949; "Haunting Heart of the Everglades," February, 1948; and "South Florida's Amazing Everglades," January, 1940.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, December 11, 1950, "Florida Looks For Lost French Colony Site."

FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE SOUTH TO THE KEYS, THE EVERGLADES MANTLE FLORIDA WITH A WILDERNESS OF RIVERS AND SWAMPS, FORESTS AND ISLAND-DOTTED LAKES

Bulletin No. 4, March 17, 1952

Weather Prophets Forecast 30 Days Ahead

HIGH in the upper atmosphere are signs of storms yet unborn—of distant cold spells, rain-laden winds, and blanketing snowstorms.

The weatherman is learning how to read these signs and to warn of bad weather as much as a month before it strikes.

For the third successive year, the United States Weather Bureau is issuing "outlooks" predicting general weather trends for wide areas of the nation. These reports appear twice a month, 30 days in advance. About 3,000 subscribers now buy these extended forecasts. Press and radio also give out summaries which reach millions of people.

Moving Air Layer Indicates Weather

How close such predictions come was shown by the early-winter storms along the Pacific coast. On the day after New Year's, the Weather Bureau issued its outlook for January. It predicted below-normal temperatures and heavy precipitation west of the Continental Divide. A map showed two possible storm tracks from the Pacific meeting over California. Since then, repeated deluges of midwinter snow and rain in the West have more than borne out the forecast.

Modern long-range forecasting is based on the theory that weather in any given area may be determined by far-off events, through constant movement of the restless layer of air that blankets the revolving earth.

In the middle latitudes of the northern hemisphere, for example, there is a constant flow of air from west to east. Waves in this giant river in the sky undulate north and south, forming troughs and crests.

Two to six miles above the earth are the pathways where weather moves and is made. To foretell the unfolding seasons and their erratic actions over the United States, weathermen chart conditions of the atmosphere over the entire northern hemisphere, up into the stratosphere.

Pilot balloons are tracked by radar or visual instruments to heights of 30,000 feet or more. Radiosondes, carrying tiny automatic radio transmitters, broadcast back readings of temperature, humidity, and changes in atmospheric pressure.

Moon and Stars Served Early Weather Prophets

Reports come daily from weather stations in Alaska, Greenland, Europe, and Africa; from ships at sea and planes flying over the North Pole; even from Russian weathermen in Siberia. Under the world-wide cooperation of the International Meteorological Organization, weather information is one of the few things not yet cut off by the "Iron Curtain."

Since men first turned to moon and stars for signs of coming weather, there have been many scientific and not-so-scientific approaches to the goal of accurate forecasting a month, a season, even a year ahead.

"Woolly bear" caterpillars, aching corns, and the breastbones of geese have been consulted. Lifetimes have been spent studying possible cycles of heat and cold, rain and drought. Volcanic eruptions and sunspots have been suggested as major causes of various kinds of weather.

In 1935, a small group of scientists at Massachusetts Institute of

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cloth were produced. In 1948, more than 17,000 metric tons of cement were manufactured.

South Korea has one of the largest tungsten deposits in the world, and, in lesser amounts, produces copper, manganese, silver, gold, bismuth, fluorite, and salt.

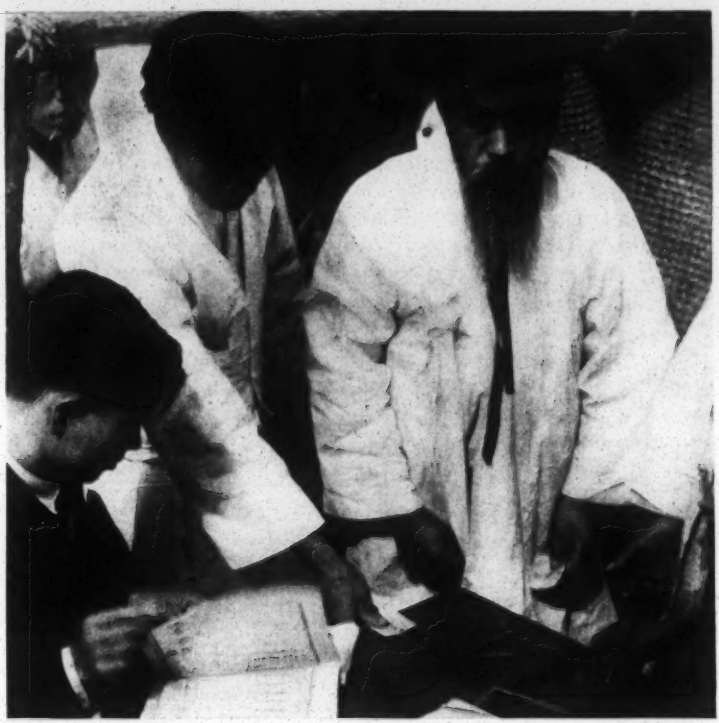
The area of North and South Korea combined is a little over 85,000 square miles. Of this, South Korea occupies some 36,000 square miles in which lived more than 20,000,000 of the approximately 30,000,000 inhabitants of prewar Korea.

With the coming of spring, many of these scattered Koreans think of their vanished homes. They would like to go back to their little farms and raise the rice, grain, tobacco, and cotton which they harvested before war tore their country apart.

A number of these refugees have been allowed to return to lands in the south. Others will not be able to plant their crops this spring.

NOTE: Korea is shown on the Society's map of Japan and Korea.

See also, "Roaming Korea South of the Iron Curtain," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1950; "With the U. S. Army in Korea," June, 1947; "Jap Rule in the Hermit Kingdom," October, 1945; and "Chosen—Land of Morning Calm," October, 1933; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January, 28, 1952, "Korean Railways Carry Major War Load"; "Another Winter Approaches in Korea," October 15, 1951; and "Korea Northlands Are Rugged and Remote," November 13, 1950.



ENZO DE CHETELAT

KOREANS IN TRADITIONAL WHITE GARB VOTE IN THEIR COUNTRY'S FIRST ELECTION

The man in the center "signs" the 1948 election list with his thumb print before entering the secret booth. His neighbor wears the old style Korean transparent horsehair hat tied under the chin. He keeps this on indoors and out, showing his topknot of hair, old Korea's badge of marriage.

Bulletin No. 5, March 17, 1952

Fiji Islands Once Offered to U. S. as a Gift

BUT for a Congress too busy with a war to answer letters, the Fiji Islands might once have become a part of the United States. Today, the loyal citizens of Britain's Crown Colony in the South Pacific are providing a volunteer battalion to fight communist terrorists in Malaya.

In 1859 King Thakombau (who had outlawed cannibalism and converted the Fijians to Christianity) offered the islands to Queen Victoria if Britain would settle the bill for damages claimed by the United States for the accidental burning of its consulate.

Sugar, Copra, and Gold Bring Prosperity

Victoria declined. Thakombau then tried to persuade the United States to accept Fiji in payment. Congress, occupied with the Civil War, didn't even answer the King's letter. Finally Victoria changed her mind and the islands were ceded to Britain. As a symbol of her sovereignty, the strait-laced Queen accepted Thakombau's blood-stained war club, and a British colony the Fijis have been ever since.

In the years since, the sugar industry has been established, much copra has poured into outbound ships, gold mines in Viti Levu have added a valuable export. The "Cannibal Isles" have become a prosperous colony.

During World War II, United States servicemen were stationed in Fiji. This American occupation is commemorated by the buildings they left behind them. Their hospitals have been converted into clinics and schools for the use of islanders. Wards which once housed American soldiers are now dormitories for Fiji school children. The air base which Americans built at Nandi, on Viti Levu, is today the hub of South Pacific air lanes. A forerunner of this aerial activity was the stop at Suva, on the same island, of the *Southern Cross*, first plane to fly the Pacific.

East Indians Outnumber All Other Residents

The Fijis comprise 322 islands spread over nearly 100,000 square miles of ocean. Their combined land area (some 7,000 square miles) is about equal to that of New Jersey, which has about 17 times as many people. Of Fiji's 285,000 inhabitants, more than half are Indians. They are descendants of laborers brought from India to work in the sugar-cane fields during the 1870's.

Native Fijians are next in number, with Europeans, Chinese, and "others" trailing far behind in the census figures.

Suva, capital of Fiji, and seat of Britain's government over the Solomons, New Hebrides, and Gilbert and Ellice group, has about 25,000 residents. It stands on the southeast coast of Viti Levu.

This mountain-crested island of volcanic origin, with an area of over 4,000 square miles, is more than twice as large as Vanua Levu, the island next in size. On these two islands live more than three fourths of the population of the archipelago.

Through Suva's busy harbor, crowded with interisland shipping, pass cargoes of sugar, copra, and gold—the wealth of the Fijis. Along Victoria

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Technology began to study all known techniques of long-range forecasting, and relationships of weather patterns over entire continents and seas.

In 1941, the Weather Bureau, one of the sponsors of the study, established an Extended Forecast Station and began to publish five-day weather predictions. As theories and techniques were developed further, these forecasts proved to be more than 80 per cent accurate.

Experimental 30-day forecasts were also prepared. They were widely used by the armed forces during World War II. In 1945, they were offered to a few private companies affected by weather conditions. Three years later the monthly outlooks were put on public sale, and early in 1950 the first general summaries were issued to newspapers.

NOTE: For further information, see "Men Against the Hurricane," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1950; "Our Navy Explores Antarctica," October, 1947; "Americans Stand Guard in Greenland," October, 1946; "New Frontier in the Sky," September, 1946; and "Weather Fights and Works for Man," December, 1943.

ACME

TWO SQUARE RED FLAGS WITH BLACK CENTERS WARN SHIPS THAT A HURRICANE IS ABOUT TO STRIKE

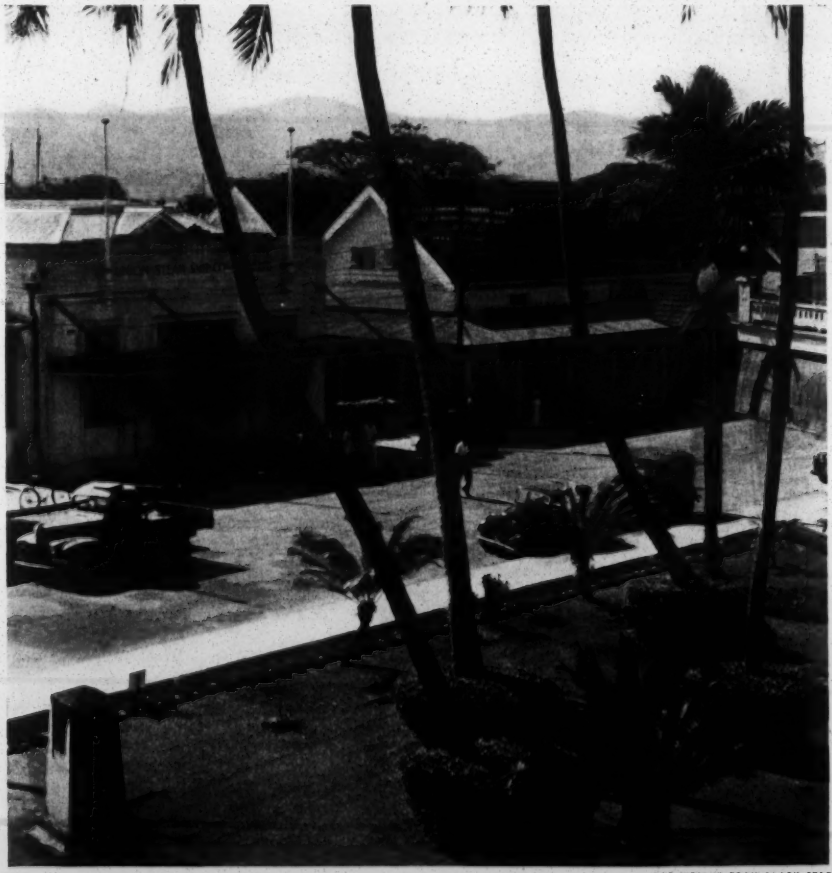
Parade stride dark-skinned, frizzy-haired Fijians, Hindu women in saris, turbaned Moslems, and Chinese traders. British officials and tourists from all over the world mingle with these darker races.

A highway rings Vitu Levu. The only railroad in Fiji is the narrow-gauge line of the sugar company, which moves cane from Tavua on the north coast to Singatoka. The occasional passengers travel free.

Sugar cane is the chief crop on the two large islands. Fruits and vegetables are raised on many of the smaller islands. Coconut palms supply copra. Bananas and rice grow in wet areas, corn and cotton in the dry uplands. Pineapples are canned near the fields where they grow.

NOTE: The Fiji Islands are shown on the Society's map of the Pacific Ocean and the Bay of Bengal, on which they appear in a large-scale inset.

See also, "Copra-ship Voyage to Fiji's Outlying Islands," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1950; "American Pathfinders in the Pacific," May, 1946; "British Commonwealth of Nations," April, 1943; and "Treasure Islands of Australasia," June, 1942.



ROB WRIGHT FROM BLACK STAR

THE TRIANGLE, SUVA'S NEATLY LANDSCAPED PARK, MIGHT BE CALLED ITS "CIVIC CENTER"

Tall coconut palms, like crooked candles jutting from low green "candlesticks," wave over Victoria Parade, Suva's main business street. Arcades of steamship offices shade pedestrians. The monument (left) marks the spot where land was first sold to settlers after the cession of Fiji to Britain.